AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said preformed mass having a plurality of ridges formed about its outermost periphery and a lubricious surface on at least one end.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said ridges are arranged in a parallel orientation relative to one another and wherein such ridges each define a plane that is substantially perpendicular to a central axis extending through said plug.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said ridges comprise a continuous helix that spirals about a central axis extending through said plug.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said ridges are discontinuous and are situated at discrete portions of said plug.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said mass has a cylindrical shape.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said mass has a polyhedral shape.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein the cross-section of the distal end of said mass differs from the cross-section of the proximal end of said mass.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The cartilage plug of claim 15, wherein said mass has a frustro-conical shape.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein each such ridge has a barb shaped cross-section.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein each such ridge has a rib shaped cross-section.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said plug has a bore formed therein.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The cartilage plug of claim 22, wherein bore has ridges formed on its interior surface.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said preformed mass having a plurality of ridges formed about its periphery and a lubricious surface on at least one end, wherein said plug is formed of laminated materials, said materials having different hardness's.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said preformed mass having a plurality of ridges formed about its periphery and a lubricious surface on at least one end, wherein said plug has porous surfaces.

Claims 26-40 (Cancelled)